

Appl. No. 10/737,310
Amdt. Dated October 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A disposable undergarment comprising:

- a skin-contactable surface;
- a non skin-contactable surface opposed to said skin-contactable surface;
- a liquid-impervious base sheet contoured by longitudinally opposite end portions extending in a transverse direction and transversely opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction;
- a liquid-absorbent panel attached to said base ~~sheet; sheet and lying on said skin-contactable surface; and~~
- ~~skin-contacting~~ skin-contactable sheets attached under tension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment so as to cover said liquid-absorbent panel, said skin-contactable sheets being stretchable in said longitudinal direction and substantially liquid-impervious, said skin-contactable sheets having fixed surface areas at longitudinal ends thereof

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~~secured to said longitudinally opposite end portions~~ and free surface areas extending between said fixed surface areas, said skin-contactable sheets being exclusively attached to said skin-contactable surface at said fixed surface areas and said ~~which~~ free surface areas are not fixed to said undergarment so as to be spaced upward from said liquid-absorbent panel as said undergarment curves in said longitudinal direction with its skin-contactable surface inside, said skin-contactable sheets being made of a non-stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric and elastically stretchable members being attached under tension in said longitudinal direction to said non-stretchable fibrous fabric so that said skin-contactable sheets may have a stretchability in said longitudinal direction.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The disposable undergarment according to Claim 5, wherein said skin-contactable sheets comprise a pair of belt-shaped strips spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and respectively extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment in said longitudinal direction so that the skin-contactable surface inclusive of said liquid-absorbent panel is partially exposed between the skin-contactable sheets.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The disposable undergarment according to Claim 5, ~~1~~, further comprising a pair of substantially liquid-impervious leak-barrier cuffs spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and respectively extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment, said leak-barrier cuffs being disposed between said base sheet and said skin-contactable sheets and attached under tension in said longitudinal direction

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to said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment, said leak-barrier cuffs having fixed side edge portions secured to said transversely opposite said edge portions of said undergarment and extending in said longitudinal direction, free side edge portions being stretchable in said longitudinal direction and normally biased to rise on said skin-contactable surface and longitudinally opposed fixed end portions collapsed onto said skin-contactable surface and fixed to said longitudinally opposite end portions of said undergarment in such collapsed state so that said free surface areas of said skin-contactable sheets are spaced upward from said free side edge portions of said leak-barrier cuffs.